



May 6, 2011

Hasan Ikhata, Executive Director
Plans and Programs Technical Advisory Committee
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)
818 W. Seventh Street, 12th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Re: 2012 RTP/SCS Alternatives and Performance Measures

Dear Mr. Ikhata and Members of the P&P TAC;

I am writing to you on behalf of over 100 groups and organizations that are supportive of more increased planning and investments for active transportation in the SCAG Region.

SCAG's last Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), adopted in 2008, was an over \$530 Billion dollar plan that unfortunately allocated less than **0.5% of all funding** toward supporting walking and bicycling projects.¹ In light of the fact that **Twelve percent of all trips** in the SCAG region are done via walking and/or bicycling², and **tragically 25% of all roadway injuries and fatalities** in the region are pedestrian and bicyclists,³ the Safe Routes to School National Partnership has created a Southern California Network to work on behalf of improving planning, policies and investments regarding active transportation in the SCAG region. As a result of the Network's efforts, an advocacy platform regarding the 2012 RTP has been developed and is receiving widespread endorsement.

As of May 9, 2011 the platform has over 100 endorsements (list attached) and continues to grow every day. As SCAG develops its performance measures, the Southern California Safe Routes to School Network strongly urges SCAG to look beyond speed and congestion as the primary indicators of measuring the effectiveness of the 2012 RTP update.

As SCAG narrows down regional transportation options and works to promote public dialogue we strongly encourage working with community groups, the general public and other interested stakeholders, as there is strong regional interest in living in walkable and bikeable neighborhoods.

We commend SCAG for its outstanding outreach to elected officials and public agency staff, however we find it challenging to see where interested stakeholders and the general public can weigh in on the

¹ 2008 SCAG RTP, Non-Motorized Supplemental Report

² 2001 SCAG Regional Household Travel Survey

³ 2008 SWITRS Data

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Regional Transportation Plan. It is our understanding that the first RTP workshops geared for the general public will be held in June and July of 2011. We respectfully request that the date and location of those workshops be announced as soon as possible. We are happy to assist SCAG in getting the word out to our network of over 300 contacts throughout the region.

We also encourage SCAG to employ additional strategies to ensure stakeholder input such as forming a public health working group, collaborating with existing non-profits on outreach (as done in MTC and SANDAG), Professionally administered RTP public opinion poll on RTP strategies (SANDAG), develop a partnership program with community collaboration in vulnerable areas (SANDAG), appointment of 'at large citizens' on RTP committees (SANDAG) and other strategies to engage meaningful public input on the development of the Region's Transportation Plan.

At the March 2011 P&P TAC meeting, one of the committee members said something we wholeheartedly agree with, **"One of the most important roles SCAG can play is to inform the public about what can be achieved, its cost and the consequences of non-action."** However, we are not seeing this done in strategies that address health, safety of all who live in the region, equity, and all transportation modes, specifically walking and bicycling.

The Southern California Safe Routes to School Network highly encourages SCAG to work with interested stakeholders regarding Active Transportation, and we believe the attached platform provides specific recommendations on how to get that process started.

The most critical performance measures we'd like to see: annual projected number of bike/ped injuries and fatalities collisions (especially in low-income areas which carry a disproportionate amount of injury rates), and annual projected number of all walk/bike trips based on investment scenarios. There are multiple other issues we are happy to work on in coming weeks, but today we wanted to clearly convey our support for more:

1. **Public Engagement on the development of the 2012 Regional Transportation Plan**
2. **Allocating agency resources to ensure meaningful engagement and analysis of active Transportation Regional Strategies in the 2012 RTP (12% of all current trips)**
3. **Performance measures addressing public health, safety and equity**

We and the undersigned individuals and groups stand by ready to work with SCAG to develop an ambitious and achievable 2012 RTP that supports communities in which citizens of all ages and abilities can safely and enjoyably walk and bike. It's exciting to see leadership, research and many agencies work towards planning for people, not solely for how fast communities can move cars through their streets (using capacity and speed as sole indicator of success). We strongly encourage SCAG to use the 2012 RTP to help move these conversations and much needed strategic infrastructure investments forward in Southern California.

Sincerely,
Jessica Meaney

CC: Hon. Pam O'Connor, SCAG President 2011-2012
Hon. Greg Pettis, Chair SCAG Transportation Committee
Hon. Margaret Clark, Chair SCAG Energy and Environment Committee
Hon. Bill Jahn, SCAG Chair Community, Economic and Human Development Committee
Michael Morris, FHWA/FTA LA Metro Office

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Regional Transportation Planning in Southern California: Achieving Federal, State, Regional and Local goals by supporting Walkable and Bikeable Communities

Introduction



The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in Southern California⁴. Every four years, SCAG adopts a federally mandated Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). This plan brings together policies and future investments for the next 25 years for a six-county region, made up of 18 million people and 38,000 square miles. SCAG is the largest MPO in the country, and includes 189 member cities.

In the last adopted RTP in 2008, an over \$530 billion dollar plan, less than 0.5 percent of funding was dedicated towards bicycle and pedestrian projects, yet 12 percent of all trips in the region are already made by walking and bicycling.⁵

SCAG is currently working on the development of the next RTP, to be adopted in 2012. In light of state, regional and local legislation and policies (and a forthcoming new Federal transportation bill), there are tremendous opportunities for improving walking and bicycling conditions in Southern California.

The co-benefits from walkable and bikeable communities are numerous. Focusing attention on the needs of bicyclists and pedestrians, particularly children accessing schools, will help the SCAG Region to achieve goals such as:

- Maximizing mobility and accessibility through strategic and fiscally prudent investments in a time of limited resources
- Addressing traffic congestion and improving air quality
- Decreasing greenhouse gas emissions
- Addressing public health impacts from the built environment
- Reducing injuries
- Supporting regional hubs that attract and maintain families, and more

This platform describes the Southern California Safe Routes to School Network's⁶ policy recommendations for the 2012 RTP.

⁴ SCAG Region is made up of six counties: Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside and Ventura.

⁵ Also important to note, 25 percent of all roadway accidents and fatalities in the SCAG Region involve pedestrians or bicyclists.

⁶ The Southern California Safe Routes to School Network is a project of the Safe Routes to School National Partnership.

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Southern California Safe Route to School 2012 RTP Platform

Improved Planning and Policies

- 2012 RTP Regional Performance Measures include all modes, specifically bicycle and pedestrian trips.
- 2012 RTP has active transportation modeling scenario.
- 2012 RTP connects state, regional and local policy and legislation that helps achieve walkable/bikeable communities (SB 375 (transportation and land use), AB 1358 (complete streets), AB 321 (speed limits) and DD-64-R1 (complete streets).
- SCAG provides funding and support for regional transportation planners, for pedestrian and bicycle planning, and provides the necessary funding for significant regional bicycle and planning studies and modeling efforts, ensuring adequate resources are available for meaningful planning for area encompassing 38,000 square miles and over 18 million people, and a mode representing 12 percent of all trips. (i.e. allocating only \$200K in SCAG's 2010 OWP for all Active Transportation studies and staffing for the Region is not considered adequate).
- 2012 RTP carefully examines performance measures to determine inequities of the RTP on any group, in this instance considering impacts on modes (pedestrians and bicyclists) and school children (aged 6-18), and public health impacts.

Improved Data Collection

- Standardized bicycle and pedestrian data collection throughout the region on an annual basis is incorporated into the RTP and adequately staffed and funded.
- Regional Transportation Modeling that addresses all modes, specifically pedestrian and bicycle trips is included as part of the RTP planning, and incorporated into future planning models.

Increased Investment

- Investments in bike/ped in the RTP should be representative of the mode share (12 percent) and safety trends (25 percent fatalities) in roadway collisions and fatalities. We specifically request funding and policies for the following projects:
 - A Safe Routes to School regional source of funding
 - A Regional/Bicycle Pedestrian source of funding
 - A Complete Streets policy where all roadway projects funded through SCAG must have the implementing agency complete a checklist to show how the needs of bicyclists and pedestrians have been evaluated.
 - A completed Regional Pedestrian⁷ and Bicycle Master Plan for the six-county region in order to prioritize the use of future Regional Active Transportation funds.

Education and Promotion

- Ensuring that local jurisdictions, elected officials, and SCAG policy committee members are receiving regular updates on active transportation, innovative policies, and planning opportunities.

⁷ Pedestrian added May 6, 2011

- ⊖ Pedestrian, bicycle and public health⁸ representatives serve on all applicable Technical Advisory Committees and other relevant task forces to ensure multi-modal perspectives at all transportation meetings (i.e., Modeling task force, Planning and Programming TAC). Active Transportation expert Ryan Snyder appointed to P&P TAC (03/11).
- Regional support and encouragement of participation in Bike to Work Day, Walk to School Day, Let's Move National Campaign, and events such as CicLAvia and other innovative active transportation outreach opportunities for encouragement.

Organizational Endorsements as of May 9, 2011

- 1) Alliance For A Better Community – Los Angeles, CA
- 2) American Institute of Architects (Los Angeles Chapter) – Los Angeles, CA
- 3) Bicycle Fixation – Los Angeles, CA
- 4) Bike Bakersfield – Bakersfield, CA
- 5) Bike Coalition at UCLA – Los Angeles, CA
- 6) Claremont Cyclist – Claremont, CA
- 7) Complete Streets Task Force (Laguna Beach) – Laguna Beach, CA
- 8) Culver City Bicycle Coalition – Culver City, CA
- 9) Day One – Pasadena, CA
- 10) East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice – Commerce, CA
- 11) Endangered Habitats League – Los Angeles, CA
- 12) Family Solutions Associates – Huntington Beach, CA
- 13) Kennedy Commission – Orange County, CA
- 14) Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition – Los Angeles, CA
- 15) Los Angeles Walks – Los Angeles, CA
- 16) Move LA – Los Angeles, CA
- 17) National Resource Defense Council – CA

⁸ Public Health representatives added May 6, 2011

- 18) Prevention Institute – CA
- 19) Santa Monica Spoke – Santa Monica, CA
- 20) Sierra Club Angeles Chapter – Los Angeles, CA
- 21) City of South El Monte – South El Monte, CA
- 22) Strategic Alliance for Healthy Food and Activity Environments – CA
- 23) South Bay Bicycle Coalition – South Bay Los Angeles, CA
- 24) West San Gabriel Bicycle Coalition – Monterey Park, CA
- 25) California Walks - CA

Individual Endorsements as of May 9, 2011

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|---|--|
| 1) Allan Alessio – Long Beach, CA | 46) FR Mahony – June Lake, CA |
| *2) Roseanne Andrus – Huntington Beach, CA | 47) Severin Martinez – Los Angeles, CA |
| 3) William Ashe – Santa Monica, CA | 48) David Matsu – Los Angeles, CA |
| 4) Paul Avila – Lancaster, CA | *49) Les Miklosy – Laguna Beach, CA |
| 5) David Barboza – Long Beach, CA | 50) Jeff Mee – Los Angeles, CA |
| 6) Jane Block – Riverside, CA | 51) Sean Meredeth – Los Angeles, CA |
| 7) Warren Bowman – Los Angeles, CA | 52) Alejandro Meruelo – Los Angeles, CA |
| 8) Josef Bray-Ali – Los Angeles, CA | 53) Christopher Meszler – Santa Monica, CA |
| 9) Madeline Brozen – Los Angeles, CA | *54) Steve Montalto – Hermosa Beach, CA |
| 10) Eric Bruins – Los Angeles, CA | 55) Todd Mumford – Los Angeles, CA |
| 11) Tyrone Callahan – Santa Monica, CA | *56) Deborah Murphy – Los Angeles, CA |
| 12) Linda Campbell – Hermosa Beach, CA | 57) Damien Newton – Los Angeles, CA |
| 13) William Campbell – Los Angeles, CA | 58) Mihai Petcu – Los Angeles, CA |
| 14) Michele Chavez – CA | 59) Thomas G. Raben – Los Angeles, CA |
| *15) Cesar Covarrubias – Irvine, CA | 60) Susan Reutimann – San Marino, CA |
| 16) Michael Wagner – Claremont, CA | *61) Wesley Reutimann – Pasadena, CA |
| *17) Tina Chapa – Bakersfield, CA | 62) Kellyanne Revenaugh – Bakersfield, CA |
| 18) Kristin Chew – South Pasadena, CA | 63) Gerardo Reyes – Los Angeles, CA |
| 19) Debbie Cook – Huntington Beach, CA | *64) Richard Risemberg – Los Angeles, CA |
| 20) Cynthia Cruz – Los Angeles, CA | 65) Alex Rixey – West Hollywood, CA |
| 21) Leah Curtiss – Los Angeles, CA | 66) Justin Robertson – Burbank, CA |
| *22) Todd Dipaola – South Bay, Los Angeles | 67) Ted Rogers – Los Angeles, CA |
| 23) Harry L. Dougherty Jr. – Sherman Oaks, CA | *68) Cynthia Rose – Santa Monica, CA |
| 24) Sean Fahle – Los Angeles, CA | 69) Carter Rubin – Santa Monica, CA |
| 25) Gary Freeman – Redondo Beach, CA | *70) Meghan Sahli-Wells – Culver City, CA |
| 26) Joe Galliani – Redondo Beach, CA | 71) David Sanchez – Pasadena, CA |
| 27) Evan Garcia – Santa Monica, CA | 72) Kara Sergile – Glendale, CA |
| *28) Joseph Gonzalez – South El Monte, CA | 73) Joe Shaw – Huntington Beach, CA |

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|---|---------------------------------------|
| 29) Laurel Graziano – Solana Beach, CA | *74) Dan Silver – Los Angeles, CA |
| 30) Nancy Hanover-Reyes – Los Angeles, CA | 75) Bob Smith – Huntington Beach, CA |
| 31) Jonathan Heller – Oakland, CA | *76) Angelica Solis – Los Angeles, CA |
| 32) Dennis Hindman – Toluca Lake, CA | *77) Beth Steckler – Santa Monica, CA |
| 33) Elizabeth Huff – Los Angeles, CA | 78) Alice Strong – South El Monte, CA |
| 34) Herbie Huff – Los Angeles, CA | 79) Katie Taylor – Long Beach, CA |
| 35) Niall Huffman – Los Angeles, CA | 80) James Thompson – Ventura, CA |
| 36) Jared Jerome – Los Angeles, CA | 81) Jeri Thompson – Long Beach, CA |
| 37) Kristen Kam – Los Angeles, CA | 82) John Vella – Long Beach, CA |
| 38) Vicki Karlan – Los Angeles, CA | *83) Jocelyn Vivar – Commerce, CA |
| 39) Robert Kellogg – Manhattan Beach, CA | 84) Michael Wagner – Claremont, CA |
| 40) Christopher Kidd – Los Angeles, CA | 85) Margaret Wehbi – Hawthorne, CA |
| 41) TJ Knight – Los Angeles, CA | 86) Greg Wittmann – Los Angeles, CA |
| 42) Steve Lee – Los Angeles, CA | 87) Don Wradell – Northridge, CA |
| 43) Mario Leon – Long Beach, CA | *88) Jerard Wright – Los Angeles, CA |
| 44) John Lloyd – Sierra Madre, CA | *89) Will Wright – Los Angeles, CA |
| 45) Ville Maanpaa – Dana Point, CA | 90) Ojig Yeretsian – Alhambra, CA |

What endorsers are saying about the Network's RTP Active Transportation advocacy platform:

Herbie Huff, Bike Coalition at UCLA

"We represent 165 students, faculty, staff and alumni of the UCLA community. We heartily endorse this platform. When we discussed it amongst our membership, there was not a single objection to our endorsement."

Steve Montalto, South Bay Bicycle Coalition

"The South Bay Bicycle Coalition is a firm believer in the need for communities, large and small, to support, plan and implement programs that promote increases in bikeability and walkability. A RTP with this as a core aspect is essential to continue the progress that we've been experiencing into true, sustainable progress."

Nancy Hanover, Los Angeles

"Safe Routes to School is a much needed plan to improve transportation in Los Angeles!"

Gerardo Reyes, Los Angeles

"As a bicycle commuter, and as an elementary school teacher, I wholeheartedly endorse this Regional Platform. We all need to work towards making our city a friendlier place for pedestrians and bicyclists."

Steve Lee, Los Angeles

"Supposed "solutions" to congestion and traffic never work. Wasting money on things like expanding the 405 go wasted as the brief convenience of a wider freeway attract more drivers that will eventually overcrowd the roads again. It's time to start funding the exploration of new approaches. Getting kids to start biking early on can help create life long cyclists. Thanks for your consideration."

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Leah Curtiss, Los Angeles – “I am happy to endorse - thank you for your efforts!”

Mihai Peteu, Los Angeles

“Our kids deserve the opportunity to engage in simple and fun activities like walking and riding a bicycle, especially on the way to school. Safe Routes to School reduces motorized traffic and gives youngsters a chance to stay in shape while getting a taste of the freedom of self-sufficiency.”

Allan Alessio, Long Beach

“This is so badly needed. We currently have 1/3 of children considered obese. 1/3!!!! When I was going to elementary school, I remember one kid in the whole school fat! If this isn't part of the plan, then what's the plan for curbing obesity?”

Alice Strong, South El Monte

“Our kids deserve safe streets...”

Alex Rixey, West Hollywood

“I live in West Hollywood and bike to work and school at UCLA in Westwood (there is NO safe route to UCLA campus from the east). I also work in downtown Santa Monica.”

William Campbell, Los Angeles

“I support SCAG's efforts with the Southern California Regional Platform to improve walking and pedestrian conditions throughout the area. Safe Routes To School will save lives.”

Katie Taylor, Long Beach

“I've seen this work wonders in Long Beach along the Vista bike boulevard.”

Tina Chapa, Bike Bakersfield

“I highly endorse the work that is being done in the Safe Routes to School Program. This is the beginning of teaching our children how to make the world a better place just by simply walking and biking.”

Don Wradell, Northridge

“We need safe routes EVERYWHERE especially to schools. Enough school drop off madness. Kids need to walk and bike to school like the generations before. Our kids are getting obese. Enough is enough.”

Meghan Sahli-Wells, Culver City Bicycle Coalition

“The Culver City Bicycle Coalition fully endorses the Southern California Regional Platform and thanks Safe Routes To Schools California for its vital advocacy work.”

Damien Newton, Los Angeles

“It's time for Los Angeles, and all of California, to embrace the simple idea that it's better for kids to walk and bike to school than ride passively in the back of their parents car.”

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